

JAMES T. WALSH
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
25TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3225

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April 4, 1996

Mr. Brad Litchfield
Associate General
Federal Elections Commission
999 E Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20463

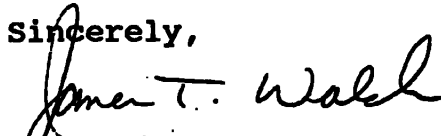
Dear Mr. Litchfield:

My purpose in writing is to seek an advisory opinion from the Commission relating to the upcoming Republican National Convention in August.

Based on the April 3, 1996 Washington Post Story indicating that campaign funds could be used to bring one's spouse to the Convention, I was wondering if my two children, ages 16 and 12, would also be eligible for a similar ruling. They would both be joining me at various campaign related functions during the Convention, and when my official duties as an elected delegate require my attendance in the arena they would attend campaign functions with their mother on my behalf.

Your response to my inquiry would be appreciated.

Sincerely,



James T. Walsh
Member of Congress

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COUNSEL
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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

Washington, DC 20463

April 11, 1996

**The Honorable James T. Walsh
United States House of Representatives
1330 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3225**

Dear Mr. Walsh:

This refers to your letter dated April 4, 1996, requesting an advisory opinion concerning the application of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act"), and Commission regulations to the use of campaign funds for travel expenses to the 1996 Republican National Convention.

You make reference to a Washington Post article about an advisory opinion permitting the use by a Member of Congress of campaign funds for his wife's travel to a national party convention where he will serve as a delegate. You state that, in addition to your wife, your two children will also attend the Republican National Convention with you. They will join you at various campaign-related functions during the convention. In addition, when your duties as a delegate require your attendance in the arena, your wife and children would attend campaign functions on your behalf.

The Act authorizes the Commission to issue an advisory opinion in response to a "complete written request" from any person with respect to a specific transaction or activity by the requesting person. 2 U.S.C. §437f(a). Commission regulations explain that such a request "shall include a complete description of all facts relevant to the specific transaction or activity with respect to which the request is made." 11 CFR 112.1(c).

Based on the above-cited requirements, you will need to provide responses to the following questions:

(1)(a) Describe the campaign-related activities during the convention period in which your wife and/or your children will participate. These activities might include receptions, press conferences, fundraising events or meetings, and similar events. State whether your wife and children will attend these activities with you or without you.

(b) Describe the role that your wife and children together, or wife and children separately, will have in the above activities (e.g., hosting or sponsoring an event, speaking at an event, meetings with specific individuals that had been planned prior to the event). State how these activities and their roles in these activities will specifically relate to or affect your campaign for re-election to the House.

(2)(a) Describe the officeholder-related activities (i.e., activities related to your duties as a Member of Congress) during the convention period in which your wife and/or children will participate. These activities might include receptions, press conferences, meetings, and similar events. State whether your wife and children will attend these activities with you or without you.

(b) Describe the role that your wife and children together, or your wife and children separately, will have in the activities referred to in question 2a (e.g., hosting or sponsoring an event, speaking at an event, meetings with specific individuals that had been planned prior to the event). State how these activities and their roles in these activities will specifically relate to your duties as a Member of Congress.

(3) State whether your family's trip to and from the convention will include trips to destinations other than San Diego, or will include staying in San Diego for periods of time before or after the convention.

For your information and guidance, we enclose Advisory Opinions 1995-47, 1995-42, and 1995-20.

Upon receiving your responses, this office and the Commission will give further consideration to your inquiry as an advisory opinion request. If you have any questions concerning the advisory opinion process, the enclosed opinions, or this letter, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Lawrence M. Noble
General Counsel

BY:

N. Bradley Litchfield 6/12
N. Bradley Litchfield
Associate General Counsel

Enclosures

Jim Walsh

U.S. CONGRESS

April 30, 1996

AOR 1996-19

Mr. N. Bradley Litchfield
Associate General Counsel
Federal Elections Commission
Washington, D.C. 20463

Dear Mr. Litchfield:

Thank you for your letter of April 11, 1996 regarding the 1996 Republican National Convention. I will attempt to respond to your questions as listed:

- 1a) My wife and children are integral parts of my campaign effort. They have always participated in campaign parties and fundraisers. They have spoken publicly on my behalf and contributed their energy to the overall effort. They are very sophisticated in the nuances of politics and I rely on them heavily. They will be attending with me and on my behalf the receptions, press conferences, fundraising events and meetings. They will gather information and make contacts when two events occur at the same time.
- b) I intend to be active as a Dole delegate. We anticipate the need to involve the Dole campaign in New York State. This will require some effort. My family members will support my activities by co-hosting and possibly sponsoring receptions for New Yorkers.
- 2a) My family will join me at a variety of receptions during the Convention hosted by organizations and companies, several of which have facilities in my congressional district. I would also expect media events from my home district to occur since they will have representatives in attendance. It is difficult to say at this point how this will work out since contacts probably will not occur until we get much closer to the actual Convention.
- b) I do expect to see and meet with several constituents who are attending the Convention. It again is too early to say who and how many at this point. I would, however, ask my children to represent me when the Young Republicans hold their function.

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- 3) I do anticipate visiting a friend in Santa Barbara prior to the Convention if my schedule allows. If so, I would pay out-of-pocket expenses for that portion of the trip; i.e., auto rental, hotel and meals.

I hope this information will be helpful. If you have additional questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,



James T. Walsh
Member of Congress